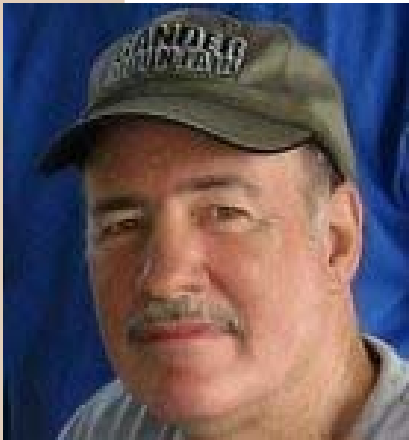


Spark Gap

Volume 27, Issue 3, March 2010 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Six Years*

Spring at Last



From the President:

Spring is in the air (finally), when the thoughts of most active hams drift to antennas, portable or mobile operating, and hamfests. Any club member who need assistance with antennas, or other radio

projects, may contact the technical committee for help, advice or guidance. Our technical committee chairman is Jack Parker, W8ISH. We welcome any volunteers who have radio skills or practical knowledge to serve on the committee. Non-technical help is needed as well, and it is a good way to accumulate working knowledge in the basics of ham radio.

In addition to installing an HF vertical antenna last fall for one of our members, the committee has been busy over the winter working on updates to the club radio room, including installing a new Icom IC-718 HF rig. We also have a new 80 meter dipole on the roof of the Johnson County jail for emergency communications with IDHS, or other uses. We already had a 40-10 meter vertical on the roof of the EOC. The committee recently installed a much needed, heavy ground wire from the radio operating bench to a ground buss in the county dispatch center. All radios, antenna tuners, and power supplies are now safely grounded to this central grounding buss. All antennas are also routed through lightning arrestors, which are bolted to the same ground system. As an

additional failsafe, all antennas should be left disconnected from the radios when they are not in use. Thanks to Johnson County REMC for donating 50 feet of #4 solid copper wire for the project, and to Tug Sutton, KC9OQY, Johnson County EMA Director, for facilitating the acquisition.

Speaking of hamfests, Dayton is just around the corner. Amateurs from all over the world attend, and it is a must visit for any ham who has never attended at least once. The availability of radio gear, and nearly every conceivable amount of anything remotely associated with radio or electronics can be found, along with a lot of things totally unrelated, but interesting. There are bargains to be had if you know what you need, or think you might need someday. Unfortunately, the Dayton hamfest committee still has not realized that the date is also our May meeting date every year.

In February, our VE team had the pleasure of testing one of the youngest applicants we ever had attempt an amateur exam. Eight-year old Nicholas Walter missed getting a passing grade by one answer on his first attempt. Undeterred, he tried again, this time with one of the VE's reading the questions to him, and he passed with flying colors. I understand an upgrade will be his next goal. Congratulations, Nick (KC9RMR) on your new Technician class license. Nicholas is a 3rd generation ham. His mom is N7WLG and his Grandfather is K7IMM. His first contact was K7IMM in Montana on Echolink.

...Steve K9DY, President

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

WISH TV Randy Ollis

Who needs a dirty fur ball Pennsylvania ground hog when you have Randy Ollis from WISH TV predicting warmer weather? As you may recall Randy, and I'm going to make some of this up anyway, predicted at our February meeting that warmer temps, greener grass and a return to Spring like weather was just around the corner.

Once again Randy has hit the barometric bulls eye right on the nose. As I write this review a balmy 50-degree breeze is coming through my window. The sun is shining and my aching feet are begging for a trip around the old homestead to see if winter affected my antennas. Our thanks to meteorologist Randy Ollis for such a bright outlook for the Spring of 2010.

Footnote: Randy did say that strong winds, hail and tornadoes are possible from now through June. -w8ish

Super Bowl

MARCH MEETING GUEST

Most hams can handle a couple of frequencies at a time but what if you were charged with coordinating hundreds of channels at the same time in the same place? During the NFL football season it takes a coordinated frequency game plan for the team of Game Day Frequency Coordinators to provide clear channels inside Lucas Oil Stadium.

For example: Each TV station usually has two sideline photographers covering a Colts game. Each photog has two wireless mic transmitters. Multiply that by four stations and you have sixteen wireless frequencies in use on the sideline. Add to that the wireless transmitters being used by the out of town media and you have multiplied the problem. And then there are the Refs. The stadium crowd and home audience would never hear those Off Side calls from the head referee without activating his wireless microphone.

From the Colts bench Payton Manning is getting his cues from the offensive coordinator via the wireless receiver in his helmet. On the other side of the field the opposition is using a similar type of radio frequency system. Look around and the list keeps getting longer.

Behind the scene guys like Al Grossniklaus, WD8BUG, Tom Weber, KC9GMJ and Roger Bishop, KB9EMH are busy monitoring nearly 400 frequencies for interference. They are the frequency watch dogs at Lucas Oil Stadium when NFL teams take the field.

Last month Al Grossniklaus fielded a new challenge and used his experience and test equipment at the Super Bowl in Miami. Al joins us Saturday March 20th to explain how this herculean task was managed during the Saints-Colts championship game. The fun kicks off at 8AM in the Johnson County EOC. -w8ish

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SKYWARN

The annual SKYWARN weather training session for Johnson County will be held on Monday, April 5th, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM. The training will be held in the EM Training room located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. We will take a count of interested individuals at the February meeting and pass the number on to the planners.

The weather training session is sponsored by the National Weather Service, Indianapolis office, and is open to the public.

The National Weather Service asks that anyone participating in SKYWARN activities take the refresher course at least once every three years.

IRCC Update

IRCC ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2009 TECHNICAL EXCEL- LENCE AWARD

Nominations are being accepted for the 2009 IRCC Technical Excellence Award. Each year the Indiana Radio Club Council selects an outstanding Indiana Amateur Radio Operator who has used their technical expertise to advance amateur radio in their club and community. This individual is not required to be a member of an organized club or organization. We are seeking to acknowledge individuals who have generously given their time and technical expertise to the Amateur Radio community.

Nomination requirements:

- Submit as much detail about this person as possible.
- List the Amateur's call sign, email address and telephone number.
- List your name, call sign and email information

Deadline for nominations is midnight June 13, 2009. The 2009 IRCC Technical Excellence Award will be presented during the Indianapolis Communications & Technology Expo July 11th. Submit nominations to: Dennis Gilbey K9JZZ, IRCC Vice Chairman, denisemoel@aol.com

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions.

Hamfest/Event Info

The **Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest** will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 West County Road 200 South, Columbus, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 146.790 (PL 100.0) repeater. For more information contact Marion Winterberg, WD9HTN via e-mail at carc_in@bcremc.net.

The **North Central Indiana Hamfest** will be held on Sunday, April 18, 2010 at the Miami County 4-H Fairgrounds, Miami County Road 200 North in Mexico, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 147.345+ (no tone) repeater. For more information contact Robbie Robinson W9RSR via email at w9rsr@comcast.net.

In Indianapolis, the **500 Mini-Marathon** will be held on Saturday, May 8th, the **Geist Half-Marathon** on Saturday, May 22nd, and the **500 Festival Parade** will be held on Saturday, May 29th. Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information on each of these events.

The **South Bend Hamfest**, sponsored by the Michiana Amateur Radio Club, will be held Sunday, May 23 at the Elks Club, 3535 East McKinley Avenue, South Bend, Indiana. Talk-in will be on the 147.33+ (PL 131.8) repeater. For more information, contact Jack Styles N9TAG via email at stylesjack1@hotmail.com.

The **White River Township 18th Annual Strawberry Festival** will be held on Friday, June 11 and Saturday, June 12, 2010 at the Sugar Grove Elementary School located at 4135 W. Smith Valley Road, Greenwood, Indiana. For more information go to <http://www.wrtfd.org/festival.htm>. MARC will be looking for volunteers for this event. To volunteer, contact Jack Parker W8ISH.

**WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone**

**Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM ET**

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State
Amateur Radio Club
sponsors a weekly
traffic and social net
on our repeater. The
net begins at 7:00
p.m. local time, and
features local news,
announcements, and
NTS traffic, as well as
rebroadcasts of
Amateur Radio
Newsline. This is a
great chance to
meet other local
amateur radio
operators and test
your operating
skills.*

2010 Schedule of Events

MARCH 2010

- 20 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 27 Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest**
Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 West County road 200 South, Columbus, IN

APRIL 2010

- 4 Easter**
- 5 SKYWARN Training for Johnson County; 7:00 PM; Open to the Public**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Contact Tug Sutton KC9OQY for more information
- 17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 17 1st Annual "Oh Dark 30" Ham Radio Swap Meet**
Madison Square Plaza (Behind the Bank; in front of the Penske Office) Northwest Corner of Southport Rd & Madison Avenue, Indianapolis, IN
- 18 5th Annual North Central Indiana Hamfest**
Miami County 4H Fairgrounds, Mexiso, IN

MAY 2010

- 1-2 Indiana QSO Party**
Go to <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/> for more information
- 8 Indianapolis Mini-Marathon**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information
- 14-15 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH**
- 15 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 22 Geist Half-Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information
- 23 South Bend Hamfest, South Bend, IN**
Elks Club, 3535 E. McKinley Avenue, South Bend, IN
- 29 500 Festival Parade, Indianapolis, IN**
Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at Indyhams.org to volunteer or for more information
- 31 Memorial Day**

Mid-State Amateur
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Spark Gap

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.



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Johnson County, IN 46131

March 2010 Newsletter – Photo Page



“Serving Indiana Communities for Twenty-Five Years”